

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
9/16/13 – 9/29/13**

DISTRICT 1

CO Denny Gast finally caught up to and cited a group of bear hunters using illegal barrels filled with bait on Commercial Forest Lands. The group was using the barrels as strike baits for their bear hounds. The illegal activity had been called in by an anonymous complainant.

CO Doug Hermanson worked a complaint in Ontonagon County of a subject shooting a deer in a farmer's field and getting chased off the property. A license plate was obtained by the farmer. CO Hermanson tracked down a 16 year old female with an 18 year old male. The 16 year old shot the deer during the youth hunt under the supervision of her 18 year old boyfriend. The adult was charged with trespassing and possible charges are pending in Probate Court with the 16 year old.

CO Mark Leadman responded to a complaint where a landowner witnessed a subject with a high-powered rifle shoot a goose in his field. The landowner went out and seized the rifle from the 16 year-old subject and called police. The landowner had given the 16 year-old permission to deer hunt on his property but not to hunt anything else. Violations included using a rifle to goose hunt, unsigned federal waterfowl stamp and a safety zone violation. A neighbor stated the same youth had shot a turkey two weeks earlier in their yard next to their vehicle. CO Leadman recognized the subject from a year ago when he had seized an illegal tree stand with illegal bait that belonged to the same subject. The goose and firearm were seized

CO Marvin Gerlach interviewed a subject who had hired a local company to run a tractor style "chipper" through brush on his private property to create shooting lanes for deer hunting. Unfortunately, he also cut about 500 yards of shooting lanes on state land, had built an illegal deer blind, illegally baited deer out of season, and operated his ORV through wetlands on state land. The subject finally admitted to the violations when presented with photos CO Gerlach had taken. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund along with troopers from the Michigan State Police (MSP) responded to a hunting incident in Iron County. Two individuals were walking in thick brush when their dog flushed a grouse. As one of the hunters swung to shoot, he did not realize that his partner had gotten ahead of him and shot him in the legs. The investigation is ongoing.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy responded to the complaint of a side-by-side ORV operating in a wetland. Sgt. Pomroy contacted the operator as he was trying to dig out his ORV that was stuck. The subject had ignored signs posting the area as closed and one sign was torn out of the ground. When asked if he saw the signs warning vehicles to stay out, he responded that he did and now knows why. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

While on patrol CO Mike Evink observed two juveniles without helmets riding together on the same three wheeler on a city street. Once stopped, CO Evink also inquired about the lack of ORV registration. The fourteen year old driver said his mom was going to buy one and bring it into town. CO Evink then asked how the three wheeler got into town. The juvenile responded that he rode it from his house, which was almost 20 miles outside the city. CO Evink contacted the parents of both juveniles and educated the whole group on ORV laws. The meeting was concluded with the distribution of the 2013 ORV safety handbook.

While working the waterfowl opener on the Dollarville flooding, CO Mike Hammill came across a group of duck hunters. While checking licenses and firearms it was discovered that one of the subjects had an "unplugged" shotgun. When asked about the violation the subject replied, "I didn't know the gun was unplugged". CO Hammill pointed out the fact that "his" shotgun was loaded with five rounds; the subject humbly accepted his ticket.

Checking a local access site CO Mike Hammill observed three subjects, one of whom was fishing. When the angler saw the CO he dropped his fishing pole and all three subjects started to walk away before CO Hammill stopped them. When asked for a fishing license, the subject replied he didn't have one because this was a private lake and he didn't need one. CO Hammill explained to the subject that this may be a valid reason if he was fishing on a private lake, but he was fishing at a State of Michigan public boat launch. A ticket was issued.

CO Kevin Postma received a complaint from DNR staff regarding a subject driving around with shingles in the bed of his pickup truck, and later that day several piles of the same type of shingle were located on state land around the Kincheloe area. CO Postma, armed with a plate number and vehicle description, was able to come up with a suspect. After locating and interviewing the suspect, a confession was obtained and the subject was issued a ticket for illegal disposal of solid waste. CO Postma also made arrangements for the subject to immediately clean up the shingles.

While patrolling Mackinac County CO Kyle Publiski came across a pickup truck driving toward him. When the driver saw the CO he quickly shifted into reverse and sped backwards down the trail and around a sharp corner in the road. As the CO came around the corner the driver jumped out of the pickup truck and started walking toward the CO. The driver was ordered to sit back in the vehicle, and as CO Publiski approached the vehicle he smelled marijuana coming from the truck. After a search of the vehicle the rest of the marijuana was located and seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was on his way to court when he witnessed a large plume of black smoke coming from behind a house and large barn. As he stopped to investigate he contacted a subject who was burning tires, tar paper and other garbage. When asked

why the subject was burning the illegal material instead of throwing it in the dumpster he had next to the house, the subject stated it was easier to burn it than throw it away. After the subject finished wheel barreling several loads of sand to put out the fire and receiving a ticket for the illegal burning he realized it would have been easier to throw the trash in the dumpster.

While patrolling the Carp River for salmon anglers, CO Kyle Publiski came across a group of subjects who were yelling and having a great time snagging salmon. Along with snagging salmon they were also littering and standing in the middle of the Carp River urinating in public. After CO Publiski observed and documented the violations he contacted the subjects, who denied snagging and keeping any fish. After CO Publiski explained that he had been watching them long enough to witness them urinating in the middle of the Carp River, the group had nothing to say and accepted their tickets for snagging salmon.

COs Jeff Panich and Kyle Publiski were checking perch anglers around Drummond Island when they observed a boat with three subjects who were all fishing. As the COs approached, the boat's operator started the boat and began to leave the area and head for the marina. The COs stopped the boat to check for fishing licenses, and only one of the three had a fishing license. The other two denied fishing at all. CO Panich held up a pair of binoculars and explained to them he had watched them fishing before stopping them. Both subjects then admitted that they had been fishing and accepted responsibility for their actions. Tickets were issued for fishing without a license.

Working a complaint of waterfowl baiting, CO Kyle Publiski set up early and watched two subjects who were hunting waterfowl over a small pond. After watching them for some time, CO Publiski contacted them. Although no bait was found, neither subject had a federal or state waterfowl stamp and one subject was using lead shot. The subject using the lead shot stated that he was not hunting waterfowl, even though he was sitting in a blind overlooking duck decoys. The subject stated he was sharp-tail grouse hunting and had just returned to the blind. CO Publiski explained to the subject that he had been watching them since before shooting light and that the subject had not left the blind. CO Publiski also explained that sharp-tail grouse season didn't open for another two weeks and asked the subject if he wanted that violation added to his list of charges; the subject declined. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

While patrolling the Pigeon River Country (PRC) state forest during the elk hunt, CO Andrea Erratt stopped an ORV for riding with a passenger on a county road. The driver was operating on a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carl VanderWall assisted with a domestic disturbance where a male subject took a three year old child and ran into the woods at night. With the assistance of a canine unit, the subjects were located. The man was arrested and the child safely returned.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski located an angler on a small trout stream and upon checking his plastic bag, found six brook trout ranging in length from three to six inches. The subject was in possession of an overlimit of brook trout, all undersized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Torsky responded to a complaint from DNR Park Rangers who were driving in the PRC when they saw numerous tire tracks going into a closed area. The rangers found several bear hound hunters with their vehicles behind a gate. The rangers locked the gate and called for officers. CO Torsky arrived and talked with the houndsmen, who admitted they knew they were not allowed to be there. Enforcement action taken.

CO Steve Speigl assisted local deputies and a county K-9 deputy on a brief manhunt after a suspect fled his vehicle after a car chase. Officers were able to locate the suspect who managed to get back to his residence on foot.

DISTRICT 4

CO Brian Brosky of Mason County was conducting surveillance on the South Branch of the Pere Marquette River and located several individuals attempting to snag salmon with oversized treble hooks. CO Brosky witnessed the subjects snag and clean the fish on the shoreline and dump the carcasses in the woods. Prior to contact CO Brosky could hear two individuals telling the subjects snagging upstream when to pull their lines as the fish were sitting on the gravel. Tickets were issued for retaining fish that were foul hooked, illegal gear, possession of mutilated fish, and litter.

CO Troy VanGelderren of Oceana County was conducting surveillance of the White River at night and used night vision to locate five individuals who were using weighted treble hooks to snag salmon. The CO witnessed one individual snag and net a salmon and quickly drag the fish to a nearby residence. CO VanGelderren followed the subject to the residence and discovered six additional illegally taken salmon. CO VanGelderren contacted the remaining four subjects and discovered they were all using the illegal weighted hooks to take fish. Tickets were issued for retaining a foul hooked salmon and fish with illegal device. The illegal hooks and fish were seized.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County received a complaint of deer hunters at a camp who were placing bait out for the youth hunt. CO Wells contacted the hunters and one individual immediately admitted placing bait early for bow hunting. The second subject placed a blind out and placed bait for the youth hunt. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of an unsupervised youth walking the road with a firearm during the youth hunt. CO Wells contacted the hunting party and discovered the youth hunter got lost while helping track a deer shot earlier in the day. Upon checking the camp a five point buck was being processed that was taken by the same youth and the kill tag was not validated. Enforcement action was taken against the guardian for failure to validate kill tag, allow a youth to hunt unsupervised and hunting deer without a valid license.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Troy VanGelderren were patrolling the North Branch of the Pentwater River when they observed two individuals stalking salmon in the river with bows holding knocked arrows. The large camp included nearly 20 people and some had been issued tickets in the past. CO Van Gelderen witnessed both individuals shooting arrows at salmon multiple times until finally connecting. Sheriff Deputies were requested for assistance in dealing with the large camp. Upon the arrival of the deputies, several people from the camp started whistling to let the violators know to stop shooting fish. Enforcement action was taken, including seizing the bows and fish.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Angela Greenway conducted surveillance of subjects snagging fish on the Pere Marquette River at Indian Bridge. Sgt. Bomay was assuming the role of an angler and was able to observe several people snag and keep fish and put them on stringers. One subject said the only way they bite is in the tail. The other husband and wife team were using bare treble hooks to snag fish. Enforcement action was taken by CO Greenway, including seizing the fish.

COs Jeff Ginn and Mike Wells received a complaint from a landowner of trespassing in progress. The landowner contacted the group squirrel hunting and advised them they were trespassing. The hunters said they had permission. When the COs arrived the squirrel hunters stated they had attained permission 13 years ago. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn received an illegal burning complaint. Upon contacting the suspect CO Ginn discovered the individual purchased adjacent property that included several trailers. The new property owner decided to burn the buildings instead of properly disposing of them. Arson charges are pending through the prosecutor's office.

COs Angela Greenway and Holly Pennoni were working the Pere Marquette River and located three female anglers who had trespassed onto posted private property to make nature calls. The COs contacted the group and took enforcement action based on multiple trespass complaints in the area.

CO Angela Greenway was working a tributary of the Pere Marquette River and witnessed a subject trespassing and run to his vehicle. Upon contacting the individual she observed that he was wet from his waist down. The subject admitted to netting fish in the shallow water. Four salmon were located in the ditch on a stringer, along with a fishing pole and a net. The subject was lodged in the Lake County Jail and is facing multiple charges pending prosecutor approval.

CO Holly Pennoni was responding to a deer complaint when she came upon an ORV accident that had just occurred. CO Pennoni treated the subject, who had a severe head injury and difficulty breathing, until Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived. The subject was transported by helicopter from the scene of the accident. The subject, who was not wearing a helmet, lost control of the go-kart he was operating when he left the roadway and struck a telephone/electrical pole.

CO Holly Pennoni responded to a reckless shooting complaint involving a group of small game hunters. The group had been shooting at squirrels in a tree in a residential area along Lake Mitchell. Other violations included minors in possession of alcohol, furnishing alcohol to a minor and careless use of firearms. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel was sent to a lost hunter complaint in the Haymarsh State Game Area (SGA). Upon arrival a frantic woman was contacted who kept repeating "just go get a boat". The woman, who was the missing hunter, had just spent the night in the woods after her brother had not shown up in a canoe to pick her up after an evening hunt. After getting his boat CO Lebel and two deputies located the canoe, which had flipped over. The body of the 61 year old victim was located near the canoe and recovered. The subject was not wearing a life jacket and one personal flotation device (PFD) was tied around a gun wedged in the canoe.

While patrolling the Tippy Dam Recreation area COs Sam Koscinski and Brian Lebel contacted two subjects who had just snagged and landed a salmon. The third subject in the group continued to fish 15 feet from the river bank and hooked into a fish. The angler kept yelling to his friends, who were being issued tickets by the uniformed officers, to get the net, but they continued to tell him they could not do that right now. The frustrated friend eventually walked downstream and had somebody net the salmon which was hooked in the back. After this fish was put on a stringer the subject was asked to return to their location where another ticket was issued. Apparently this angler had failed to notice his friends were getting tickets just 15 feet away from where he hooked and kept an illegal fish.

CO Steve Converse contacted an angler on Pine Creek with an illegal gear set on his fishing pole, with the weight below hook. CO Converse observed the angler set down his pole and catch a salmon with his hand. A ticket was issued for taking salmon by illegal device/method. Approximately 30 minutes later along the same stretch of river CO Converse observed two brothers net and take salmon with their hands. The brothers also attempted to snag salmon. Enforcement action taken.

CO Steve Converse responded to a complaint along Pine Creek about anglers netting salmon. CO Converse observed a husband, wife, and son netting salmon. None of the individuals had bothered to bring a fishing pole. CO Converse contacted and ticketed the individuals. When finally contacted the anglers had 113 pounds of illegal salmon for which they will be paying restitution.

CO Justin Vanderlinde and Sgt. Robert Torres set up surveillance on a fish camp along the Betsie River that has a history of not following the fishing rules. Over 20 individuals were at the camp. COs had also received a complaint on this camp earlier in the day. The COs observed several anglers snagging fish using illegal unbaited hooks with weights below. After about three hours of note taking and observation, COs Vanderlinde and Torres with assistance from CO Steve Converse, contacted the anglers at the fish camp. COs issued tickets for 17 violations including snagging fish,

possess a bow along a trout stream, possess a spear along a trout stream, overlimit of salmon, and no fishing license. Two anglers in the camp had outstanding arrest warrants one was lodged and the other posted bond at the scene. Two other anglers had warrants but were out of pickup range.

COs Steve Converse and Justin Vanderlinde, along with Sgt. Robert Torres, responded to a complaint of an untagged deer. The complainant advised that a youth hunter had shot a very small button buck and his father had advised the youth to leave it for the coyotes, as it was too small to tag. Prior to the COs' arrival, the deer had been moved by the father and youth and stashed in the woods but still not tagged. COs were able to follow up and track down the father of the youth at a local residence. The subject admitted to informing the youth to not tag the deer as required. Enforcement action taken.

CO Sam Koscinski responded to a complaint on Bear Creek of anglers taking fish illegally. CO Koscinski made contact and ascertained that nearly 64 pounds of salmon were illegally taken by hand/net/gear/ and in one instance by use of a firearm. Five tickets were issued and the suspect with the handgun was turned over to the MSP for CPL violations.

While working the Tippy Dam area CO Sam Koscinski wrote numerous tickets for the use of illegal gear and snagging. CO Koscinski seized approximately 277 pounds of illegally taken salmon and also had several LEIN arrests. The same weekend CO Steve Converse seized approximately 516 pounds of illegally taken salmon from the Tippy Dam area.

DISTRICT 5

CO Matt Liestenfeltz responded to a complaint of shots fired after dark on a vacant parcel of property and located a deer carcass with the hide removed. The carcass appeared to have been killed two days prior. CO Liestenfeltz received another complaint of shots fired from the same location a few nights later, responded to the area and contacted occupants of a vehicle leaving the property. He conducted interviews with the two subjects, one who is a relative of the property owner, and determined they were shooting a potato gun. The CO also obtained information about a possible suspect in the illegal shooting of the deer he located on the property. Interviews were conducted of the alleged suspect, and it was determined the actual suspect was the original individual he contacted with the potato gun who gave him false information. CO Liestenfeltz re-interviewed the suspect, and obtained a confession for not only the original deer located, but also a second illegal deer disposed of on the same property. The suspect also implicated three other individuals who were interviewed and confessed. Multiple charges are being sought, including taking deer after legal hunting hours, shining while in possession of a weapon, and possession of a loaded gun in a motor vehicle.

CO Mike Hearn located an illegal bear bait site on state land where the subject was using a steel barrel with a metal grate buried in the ground. The subject also had lines run through the trees with various scent rags and had set off bear bomb canisters which he failed to clean up. CO Hearn sat covertly on the bait site for the evening hunt. After being visited by a bear at the site, the suspect arrived and was issued a ticket to address the multiple violations.

COs Mike Hearn and Matt Liestenfeltz were working the Deadstream Swamp state land for bear hunting activity and came upon a section of road that was unable to be traveled by patrol truck. Closer inspection revealed a set of ORV tracks continuing down the road. Both COs set out on foot and located the ORV at the end of the trail. After checking multiple foot trails, contact was finally made with a bear hunter. The bear hunter had multiple violations and was ticketed.

CO Mike Hearn responded to an ORV personal injury accident on the ORV route. CO Hearn gathered evidence and conducted interviews and determined the accident was caused when the operator of a four wheeler was traveling too fast around a corner and ended up crossing the median and striking a four wheeler heading in the opposite direction. The victim then lost control and ended up flipping the ORV into a tree. Medical personnel arrived on scene and checked over everyone involved. The suspect was ticketed for careless operation of an ORV.

CO Steve Lockwood responded to a complaint of two deer that had been killed out of season. Upon contacting the suspects, it was learned that a youth had taken an 11-point buck before the youth season started. After an extensive interview, the subject's mother admitted to killing an additional antlerless deer. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

CO Nick Atkin was on patrol when he witnessed a rollover car accident on the expressway as the CO was crossing on the overpass. The CO was the first emergency responder on scene and treated the injured driver and passenger until EMS personnel arrived.

CO Nick Atkin assisted CO Chad Foerster on a complaint where a subject fell out of his tree stand while trying to take the stand down to move it. The COs assisted EMS with treating and removing the injured man safely out of the woods.

While patrolling state land, CO Seth Rhodea contacted several hunters and inquired about their success. One of the hunters advised the CO they had just shot a grouse and the other guys were looking for it in the bushes. While checking the first hunter's license, the CO heard one member of the hunting party say he found the bird then state that it was a robin. CO Rhodea then contacted the other hunters and seized the illegally killed bird. Subsequent questioning and searching of the hunters led to illegal narcotics being seized in addition to the hunting violation. Several tickets were issued.

CO Seth Rhodea stopped a subject on an ORV after seeing him operating without a helmet on a county road. The CO observed an empty deer bait bag in a sled that the subject was towing and asked what the bag was for. The operator said he had just finished putting out deer bait on state land. The CO informed the man that baiting was illegal at the present time and then asked him if he had driven onto state land with the ORV to place the bait. The subject denied driving onto state land but upon continued questioning by CO Rhodea, the subject eventually admitted that he had driven quite a distance on state land with the ORV to help put his deer bait out. Two tickets were issued to address the multiple violations.

CO Chad Foerster spent several hours on foot patrol in a state wildlife area in Bay County reference a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of two subjects not wearing hunter orange who were small game hunting and shooting at everything that moved. Several days prior, the hunters confronted the complainant asking him if he was the DNR and gave him a hard time for being in the area. CO Foerster was able to locate the subjects and follow them for approximately 45 minutes before making contact with them. One of the subjects did not have a small game license and claimed that he was not hunting, only target practicing. Both were wearing hunter orange. The CO explained to the hunters that their actions, which included separation, stalking, and communicating with some sort of "bird calling" to maintain the same speed, were indicative to hunting. Although the hunter maintained his stance that he was only target practicing, enforcement action was taken for hunting without a license.

COs Jason A. Smith and Seth Rhodea assisted the Thumb Narcotics Unit (TNU) with a marijuana flight looking for illegal marijuana grows. About six pickup truck loads of marijuana were recovered along with about a half pound of processed marijuana.

CO Joshua Wright was travelling through St. Clair County when he was passed by a motorcycle in a no passing zone. The cyclist also passed another vehicle at the same time. CO Wright eventually got the motorcyclist stopped after three miles of lights and sirens and speeds over 90 mph. Once the cyclist was stopped, CO Wright discovered the passenger as an 11 year old child. The operator of the motorcycle had an outstanding warrant for his arrest and was issued a ticket for careless operation and bond was taken for his warrant.

CO Ken Lowell received a RAP complaint regarding a hunter possibly poaching a deer on the night before the early antlerless season. The CO responded to the suspect's address and after a lengthy interview a confession was obtained. The suspect admitted that he saw a few does in his field and figured that the season was only a few hours away so he shot one early. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell worked with his local prosecutor regarding a case from back in 2009 regarding a Colorado resident who was buying resident licenses in Michigan. The suspect grew up in Michigan and then moved to Colorado. With the help of the Colorado Game Department a warrant was issued. The suspect finally turned himself in

and was ordered to pay over \$1500 in restitution and he will lose his rights to hunt and fish for two years.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a call from CO Dan Lee stating he received information on a group of hunters who were planning on having a hunt and betting on who could shoot the most does. CO Gowenlock responded to the location and found a spot where he could observe the hunters back at camp. After about an hour the CO saw one subject open a shed and observed several deer hanging inside. The subsequent investigation revealed that one doe was tagged with a public antlerless tag but taken on private property in a different area. The subject was ticketed for his violation.

While patrolling the Maple River SGA, CO Jeremy Payne observed a vehicle driving toward his location with only one working headlight. The CO pulled into a parking area and waited for the vehicle to drive by. Once the vehicle passed the CO it attempted to do a U turn on the narrow road. The CO witnessed the driver hanging halfway out the open driver's door attempting to negotiate the turn around. The CO stopped the driver and investigated him for operating under the influence of alcohol. The driver told the CO that he was not drunk driving, that he was only buzzed driving. The driver was lodged at the Gratiot County Jail for operating while impaired.

CO Dan Lee responded to a complaint of shots fired on a weekday evening where the caller had been watching deer when he heard a shot, saw the deer fall and then watched a truck drive by. The caller was able to get a good description of the suspect and vehicle but not the plate. The CO located the deer, a 10 point, and explained to the caller and his companions that they needed to call if they saw the suspect vehicle again. The CO waited several hours for the suspect to return but he did not. The next morning CO Lee got a call that the suspect vehicle was back in the field where the deer had been shot. The CO made contact and found the suspect in the vehicle with his uncased rifle in the cab of the truck. The man admitted to the violation. Several charges are pending.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly received a complaint of a suspect who shot two antlerless deer during the early antlerless season. The deer were allegedly left in the field and not tagged. Upon checking the scene, the Sgt. found a gunshot, untagged doe in the field behind the suspect's home. Further investigation revealed that local deputies received a domestic violence call and arrived on the scene shortly after the deer was shot. The suspect's sister was not happy that he shot at a deer; and the suspect then tried to choke his sister. The suspect was a convicted felon and the sister advised the deputies that he had shot at a deer with a rifle. The deputies found the hidden rifle and lodged the suspect for domestic violence and felon in possession of a firearm. The Sgt. assisted the deputies with the additional evidence by providing a dead gunshot deer. The additional charge of the illegal deer will also be added.

DISTRICT 7

CO Andy Bauer received a call from the Berrien County Sheriff's Department regarding careless shots being fired in the direction of some nearby hunters. CO Bauer responded and contacted an individual who was hunting. The subject had shot a spotted fawn and dragged it off into a wood line without tagging it. The subject stated he had shot at a doe but had hit the fawn. The subject indicated that his son was also hunting with him. CO Bauer located the 15 year old son hunting quite a distance away and out of sight from the father. The father stated he could contact his son via cell phone if necessary. CO Bauer explained the law regarding direct supervision of minors. Enforcement action was taken reference the untagged deer.

CO Cary Foster was called to Kent County on a RAP complaint with a report of an illegally killed deer near Lowell, prior to any deer season being open. During the investigation, he determined 12 and 20 year old brothers were hunting rabbits with centerfire rifles, stating they had no intention of eating the rabbits. During the hunt, a doe ran past the younger hunter followed by another deer. The 12 year old fired at the second deer, wounding a spotted fawn with a rifle shot. The 20 year old brother assisted in tracking and dispatching the deer and a mutual decision was made to bury the deer at the back of the property. CO Foster met with the parent of the brothers and concluded his investigation, obtaining statements. Charges are pending.

CO Cary Foster reviewed RAP complaints of salmon snagging at the Weber and Portland Dams on the Grand River and conducted a patrol to target the illegal activity. As he observed two boats near the dam, he determined each to be possibly retaining foul hooked fish and headed back to the launch ramp. Upon contacting each boat and conducting interviews, one angler was ticketed for having no PFDs aboard and two adults in the second boat were ticketed for retaining four foul hooked salmon.

CO Cary Foster responded to a snagging complaint to witness a young man actively attempting to snag salmon at the Portland Dam. Walking down and standing next to the angler in full uniform, CO Foster asked the 12 year old if he knew who he was. The angler correctly identified the CO as a conservation officer and continued snagging. After a discussion about his illegal technique, the young angler advised he was taught how to do this by his uncle. A verbal warning and brief education was given to the young angler on legal techniques and ethics.

Sgt. John Jurcich was on patrol at dark on the second evening of the youth hunt when he stopped to examine a parked vehicle in the Muskegon SGA. A very small pair of shoes was located next to the car door and two boxes of 12 gauge slug loads were on the front passenger seat. As the situation looked suspicious, he waited until after dark to contact a possible young hunter. Sgt. Jurcich contacted a father and his five year old son after dark as they emerged from the woods. No gun was located and the father indicated the boy, who possessed a hunting license, was hunting with the youth size crossbow that the father was carrying. Sgt. Jurcich asked to see how the young boy handled the crossbow, and found that he could barely lift the youth crossbow to his shoulder and had little knowledge or skill in how to use the equipment. Sgt. Jurcich took

the father aside for a discussion on his responsibility as a parent to introduce the young hunter to this activity with proper training and equipment for a safe and ethical hunt.

COs BJ Goulette and Ivan Perez patrolled the Cedar Creek area in Muskegon County checking for salmon activity. While on foot an ORV approached on the road coming from a nearby snowmobile trail. The COs returned to their patrol truck and followed the tracks to a nearby residence. After a period of discussion, a female resident produced her 20 year old grandson who was hiding in a bedroom after returning home from operating the ORV illegally on public roads and US Forest Service (USFS) lands. Tickets were issued.

Sgt. John Jurcich was patrolling USFS and Hunter Access Program lands when he located early deer baiting locations and fresh ORV tracks indicating illegal operation on both properties. While following tracks, three ORVs were located riding illegally on public lands. Enforcement action was taken and several verbal warnings were given to the riders with respect to keeping their operation to the nearby provided trail systems.

CO Greg Patten stopped to check a tent camper on posted private lands that also had a for sale sign placed nearby, only to learn the camper thought it was public land open to camping. While CO Patten attempted to re-direct the camper, he observed a "bong" style pipe in the vehicle which led to a bag containing marijuana belonging to the camper. Enforcement action was taken for the marijuana.

DISTRICT 8

While working south of Marshall, CO Brian Fish observed a truck miss a stop sign and nearly cause an accident. Upon stopping the vehicle CO Fish located a loaded .243 and a .22 rifle in the cab of the vehicle next to the driver. The driver's license was suspended several times. CO Jeff Goss has an illegal deer case awaiting trial on the same subject. Assistance was provided by local sheriff's deputies and enforcement action was taken.

CO Derek Miller was checking anglers in Lenawee County when two anglers reeled up their lines and walked toward their friends when he approached. One subject stated he forgot his license at home and the other stated he lost his wallet and fishing licenses. An RSS check revealed one subject did forget his licenses at home; the other hadn't purchased a license in five years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Derek Miller was patrolling back roads when he located a vehicle parked in the roadway, still running but unoccupied. He observed a subject walk from behind the vehicle and attempt to get in the vehicle. He asked the driver to step out of the vehicle as he was highly intoxicated. The driver sped away after verbal commands, which led to a pursuit. The driver later crashed the vehicle and was taken into custody. Charges include flee and elude, operate while impaired fourth offense, two felony warrants, improper plates and driving on a suspended license. The subject was lodged.

CO Kyle Bader was just returning from a long weekend up north and was called to assist an MSP trooper who had a vehicle stopped with an untagged buck in the back. CO Bader responded to the scene and ticketed the subject for taking an antlered deer during a closed season and failing to tag a deer.

CO Kyle Bader interviewed a subject who dumped a deer carcass on a back road. The subject's stepson had killed the deer during the early antlerless season. The subject told his stepson he would take care of the carcass for him. The hunter was upset when he went to show CO Bader the carcass and couldn't find it because his stepdad took the easy way out and dumped it on a road. The young hunter was also educated on what types of tags are valid during the antlerless season. One verbal warning issued for tagging violation and one ticket issued for littering.

CO Jason Smith was on patrol when he checked a hunter and discovered a small antlerless deer that was hidden under some tall grass. CO Smith saw that the tag was barely attached to the leg and was not validated. CO Smith also learned that the hunter had a warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jason Smith was called to a complaint of steel shot from goose hunters coming down on a house. CO Smith contacted the hunters where the landowner was running a guide business and the hunters paid to hunt. CO Smith advised them that they were shooting into a safety zone, and also discovered that the landowner had placed out bait where they were hunting. CO Smith also checked the landowner's brother-in-law who was hunting without a license and had an unplugged gun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Smith checked into a complaint where a 19 year old hunter had shot a six point buck and had his 16 year old girlfriend buy a license and tag it. Although it had been three days, CO Smith was able to obtain a full confession. Charges being requested through the prosecutor's office.

CO Dan Bigger was called at his residence on the opening day of the Liberty Hunt with a complaint that there was a subject out hunting who was not disabled. CO Bigger took the information and got into uniform. Within 20 minutes, CO Bigger was on scene at the location of the complaint. CO Bigger located the hunter who was not disabled and was participating in the early doe season. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking an angler who was fishing from a bridge, CO Todd Thorn observed a vehicle being driven at a high rate of speed pass him and the person fishing. CO Thorn was able to catch up to and stop the vehicle and found a female driver with a male passenger. There were open intoxicants and marijuana was found in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

Checking small game hunters at Pointe Mouillee SGA, CO Dan Walzak checked two

hunters whose pickups were covered with fresh mud. When CO Walzak asked the first subject how he got so much mud on his truck he claimed that he got it pulling his younger brother's truck out from being stuck in the mud off the road. When CO Walzak asked the younger brother for his story he gave a different version. There was a third subject with them in his own vehicle and, when asked, he also told a different version of the incident. CO Walzak completed a hunting check of the third subject and checked his firearm which had just been put into his vehicle. The CO found one .177 pellet rifle which was not in a case, and asked once more about his friends and what really happened. The CO was told that the older brother drove off the road into a low muddy area on private property and made it through. The younger brother attempted his older brother's feat and got stuck in the process. Neither had an ORV license on their vehicle and this all occurred on private property where they were operating without permission. When presented with this version of the story both subjects admitted to what they had done. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively responded to a complaint on property in Holly Township. The COs located bait piles along a railroad right-of-way and a blood trail tracking onto the cemetery property. Although no deer was found, the blood led to an adjacent property with recent hunting activity. The COs located numerous bait piles on this property and recognized it from a few years earlier. The owner had been ticketed back in 2010 by CO Kieft for trespassing and illegal hunting. An interview with the property owner led to confessions regarding the violations. Enforcement action was taken for baiting before October 1st.

CO Brandon Kieft followed up on a baiting complaint from the Bald Mountain Recreation Area staff. The staff claimed that a subject was baiting prior to October 1st, had been cutting limbs and vegetation on state land, and had not removed his tree stand from the 2012 season. CO Kieft recognized the hunting area and had dealt with the individual in the past. The subject was interviewed at his residence and confessed to the violations. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a shining patrol in St. Clair County, CO Ken Kovach spotted vehicle headlights trespassing on International Transmission Company (ITC) power lines property. CO Kovach was able to catch up to several 4x4 off road trucks that were mud bogging on the power corridor. Violations included recreational trespass, unregistered motor vehicles, and defective equipment. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Schwiderson worked early baiting complaints in Lapeer County. The CO walked into one of the bait sites and contacted a father and son out for the Youth Hunt. Unfortunately, not only was their bait placed too early, but there was too much, and no one was wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.